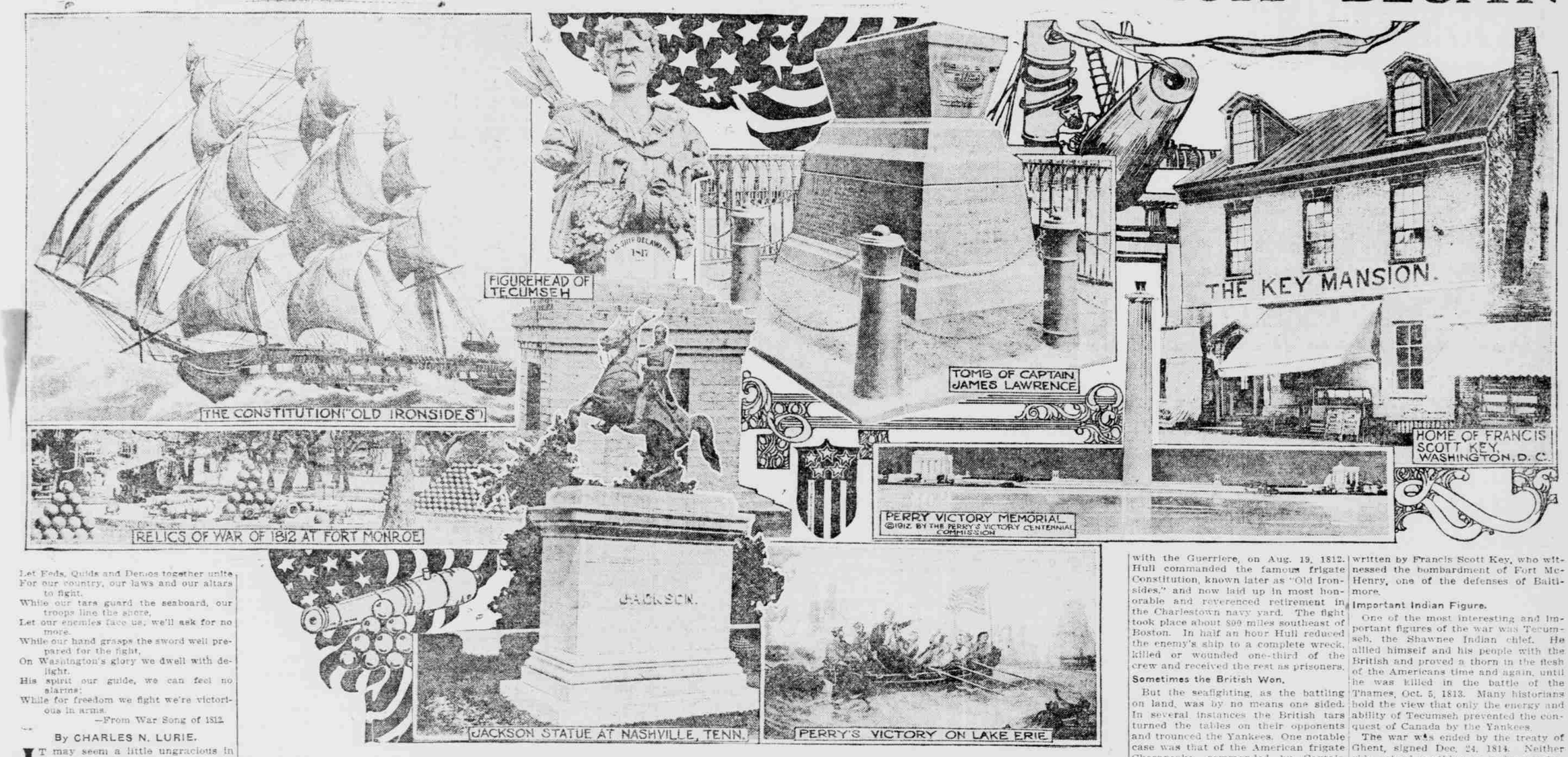
100 YEARS AGO THE WAR OF 1812 BEGAN



Let Feds, Quids and Demos together unite
For our country, our laws and our altars to fight.
While our tars guard the seaboard, our troops line the shore,
Let our enemies face us, we'll ask for no more.
While our hand grasps the sword well prepared for the fight,
On Washington's glory we dwell with delight.
His spirit our guide, we can feel no alarms;
While for freedom we fight we're victorious in arms.
—From War Song of 1812.

By CHARLES N. LURIE.

IT may seem a little ungracious in Americans just now to recall the fact that a hundred years ago their forefathers twisted the tail of the British lion, especially in view of the present prevalence of the "hands across the sea" feeling and the various movements looking forward joyfully to the celebration of a centenary of unbroken peace between the two main branches of English speaking folk. But the not to be denied historical fact remains that on June 18, 1812, the United States of America, then a stripling of thirty-six years, declared war on Great Britain. James Madison was president at that time.

It was only one of the world's innumerable "little wars," so far as Great Britain and the rest of the world outside of America was concerned. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the majority of Britons scarcely knew that their cousins were defying the might of the mother country in defense of their right to sail the seas unmolested. The British were so absorbed in the life and death struggle with Napoleon that they had not time for a glance across the ocean.

Here is one of the interesting "ifs" of history—those fascinating speculations on the probable course of events if circumstances had shaped themselves otherwise than they did: Had Great Britain been able to turn its resources and its armaments, which helped so mightily in the undoing of the great Bonaparte, to the war against its ex-subjects, would the result have been different?

But it's a hundred years ago. We had better not stir up that old matter again. Suffice it to say that America won after a war of two and a half years.

In spite of the words of the American poet quoted at the head of this story, in which he asks no more than to be brought face to face with the enemy, historical verity compels the American chronicler to admit that in the War of 1812, "the second war for independence," as it is sometimes called, the enemy saw more of some of the Yankees than their faces. These words, with others, helped the Yankee soldiers to march cheerfully into Canada, but they failed of their inspiration when the Americans had to march back again without glory and happy to have brought back their lives. Three times the Americans tried to take what afterward became the Dominion. Three times they failed, after valiant fighting on both sides, but in the end they had the British government so scared that attacks were made on Washington, Baltimore and New Orleans to divert attention from the northern country.

Not Much Glory on Land.

Every American who remembers a considerable fraction of the history which he studied in his school days recalls the facts that on land the American forces, for the most part, failed to cover themselves with glory, while on sea the Yankee record was the most glorious ever made. The war on land began badly for Americans with the failure, in 1812, of the Hull attempt to invade Canada and the subsequent surrender of Hull, named William by his parents, when confronted by Major General Brock. On Aug. 14, 1812, this Hull, named William, as told before, surrendered 2,500 men, thirty-three guns and the whole of Michigan to the British.

It may be said in extenuation of Hull's offense—for he was a brave fighter in the Revolutionary war—that he was far from his base of supplies, his supplies were scanty and his communications were interrupted. Besides, the support promised to him by General Dearborn was not forthcoming, Dearborn being busy in Boston at that time mending his political fences. So Hull—front name, William, remember—was the American "goat" of the war. Only his record saved him from the ignominy of standing against a blank wall and being shot by his own countrymen. He was court martialed and convicted, but pardoned by President Madison. The fault of William Hull, viewed in the perspective of a century, seems to have been an inability to decide whether to advance or retreat. He tried to do both simultaneously, it seems, but he was confronted by a brave British officer and the result was disaster to Americans. Brock lost his life on Oct. 13, 1812, in a battle in which his soldiers were successful, at Queenstown, Ontario. His monument, a high shaft, is familiar to all visitors to Niagara Falls who cross the boundary.

One Hull Who Won Fame.

Stress has been laid upon the first name of General William Hull. That is because there was another Hull on whom the full light of glory and honor beat in the war of 1812. That Hull was Captain, afterward Commodore, Isaac Hull, nephew of the aforesaid William. He was one of the "stars," so to speak, of the drama which Great Britain and the United States set forth on the water. For the most part, all the applause went to the American actors, even from the British spectators whose attention was attracted to the waves which Britannia emphatically did not rule.

In the words of Professor William E. Dodd, professor of history in Randolph-Macon college: "The telling work of the American navy took the world by surprise. England forbade her sea captains to fight American ships of superior tonnage. American privateers swarmed the Atlantic. They did effective work. It became dangerous for an English merchantman to cross the English channel. They captured 500 vessels during the fall and winter of 1812-13. Marine insurance for the Irish sea rose to 13 per cent."

In much of this naval activity Isaac Hull bore an honorable part. But his greatest feat, the one on which his renown is mainly based, was the fight with the Guerriere, on Aug. 19, 1812. Hull commanded the famous frigate Constitution, known later as "Old Ironsides," and now laid up in most honorable and reverenced retirement in the Charlestown navy yard. The fight took place about 800 miles southeast of Boston. In half an hour Hull reduced the enemy's ship to a complete wreck, killed or wounded one-third of the crew and received the rest as prisoners.

Sometimes the British Won.

But the seafighting, as the battling on land, was by no means one sided. In several instances the British tars turned the tables on their opponents and trounced the Yankees. One notable case was that of the American frigate Chesapeake, commanded by Captain James Lawrence. She was defeated and destroyed by the British frigate Shannon on June 1, 1813. Lawrence was killed. He died bequeathing to the American navy the glorious watchword, "Don't give up the ship!"

On inland waters the Americans were signally successful. On Sept. 10, 1813, occurred the famous victory of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. After two hours and a half of savage fighting the lake remained indisputably in the hands of America. It was after this battle that Perry sent his famous message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," to General William Henry Harrison, then commander of an army assembled for the purpose of invading Canada. It helped greatly to lighten the hearts of the Americans, and soon thereafter they gained important successes on land and water.

In 1814 came the burning of Washington public buildings by the British in retaliation for the burning of the government house in York, now Toronto, the year before, by the Americans. The attack of the British on Baltimore failed, but it gave rise to the composition of America's national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key, who witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry, one of the defenses of Baltimore.

Important Indian Figure.

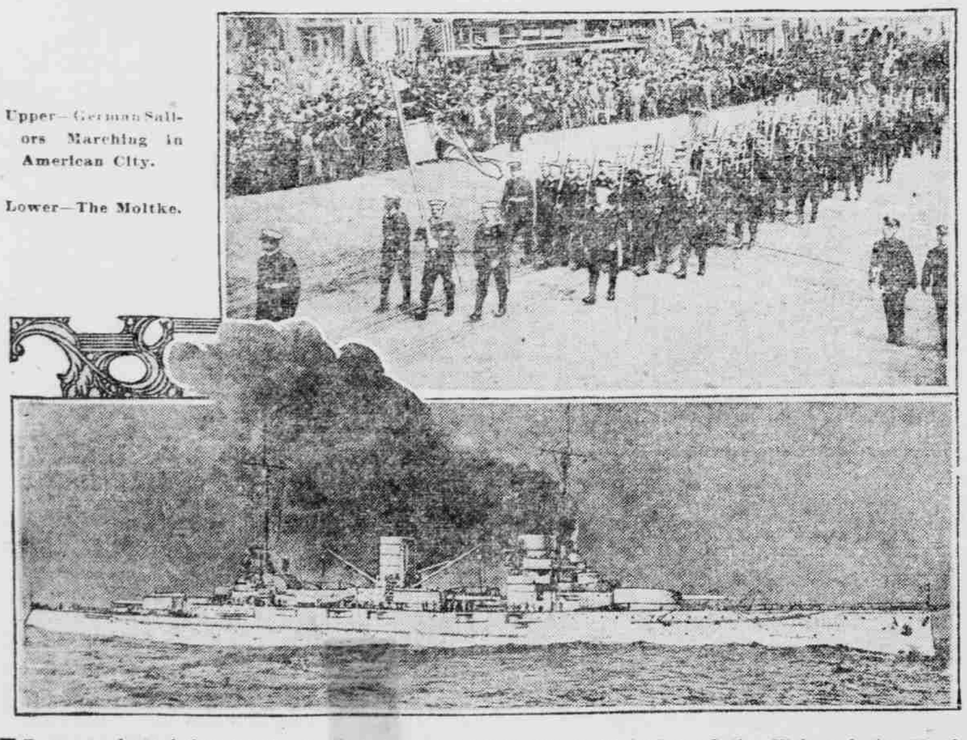
One of the most interesting and important figures of the war was Tecumseh, the Shawnee Indian chief. He allied himself and his people with the British and proved a thorn in the flesh of the Americans time and again, until he was killed in the battle of the Thames, Oct. 5, 1813. Many historians hold the view that only the energy and ability of Tecumseh prevented the conquest of Canada by the Yankees.

The war was ended by the treaty of Ghent, signed Dec. 24, 1814. Neither side gained anything as to boundaries, and the disputed questions of rights of search of vessels, impressment of sailors and the status of neutral trade were settled not by the war in America, but by the downfall of Bonaparte.

Before the news of the signing of the treaty reached the fighters in America the last and greatest battle of the war was fought at New Orleans, on Jan. 8, 1815, actually fifteen days after peace was announced formally in Europe. The Americans were commanded by General Andrew Jackson, afterward president of the United States. The British commander was General Pakenham, a veteran of the Napoleonic wars. He was the brother-in-law of Wellington and was considered a brave and skillful soldier. Pakenham was killed in the battle, and his army of 8,000 lost 2,036 men killed and wounded. Jackson's entire loss was eight killed and thirteen wounded.

Lossing, in his "Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812," says, "The history of human warfare presents no parallel to this disparity in loss," but he adds, "The Americans were thoroughly protected by their breastworks, while the British fought in front of them on an open, level plain."

THE KAISER'S BIG COMPLIMENT TO AMERICA



Upper—German Sailors Marching in American City.

Lower—The Moltke.

IT may be doubted that Americans generally, outside of official circle, know or appreciate the high compliment the kaiser has paid them in sending the battleship cruiser Moltke to visit American waters. The development of the German navy being the object nearest and dearest to the imperial heart and the Moltke being the pride of the German navy, it follows that the dispatch of the Moltke is evidence of very deep friendliness on the part of the emperor. Let's all hope that no American officer or any one else will recite at a banquet "Hoch der Kaiser" or any other satirical verses, as happened on a certain memorable occasion several years ago. The visit of the Moltke, with two smaller cruisers, the Bremen and the Stettin, is intended primarily as a return courtesy for the visits of American warships to Germany.

It is hard to avoid saying, so let it be said—the Moltke is "some ship." In the first place she is one of the fastest of the world's big warships. In her trial trip, made a few months ago, she registered almost thirty knots, a record for ships of her class. The class is itself a new one, the "battleship cruiser," a type of tremendously swift and powerful vessels.

The British navy has only a few vessels to compare with the Moltke, and the American navy none at all, for the armored cruisers North Carolina, Washington and others of their class are far below the Moltke in size, speed, fighting power, number in crew, etc. How big she is may be ascertained from a comparison of her tonnage with the greatest of American ships. She displaces 22,632 tons, which is nearly 3,000 in excess of the Delaware and North Dakota and only 1,825 less than that of the Utah and the Florida, prides of the Yankee navy. The battleships Texas and New York will be, when completed, only 4,000 tons bigger than the Moltke. The Wyoming and Arkansas, also under construction, will displace 26,000 tons each.

So there is reason for the statement that the Moltke will attract the admiring attention of American naval men from the time she arrives in American waters, on June 3, until her departure ten days later. Official Washington prepared to welcome the Moltke, her sister ships in the squadron, the Stettin and the Bremen, and their 2,000 officers and men (1,000 of them on the Moltke) with receptions by President Taft, dinners, etc. The Germans have planned to visit Mount Vernon, Annapolis, New York and other places of interest.

The Stettin and the Bremen, although fine specimens of the newer cruisers of the German navy, seem almost like tenders for their gigantic sister. The Bremen is 3,250 tons burden and the Stettin 3,450. The former is regularly stationed in West Indian waters, to look after German interests in the Caribbean sea.

The kaiser and his people have been frank in asserting that they want the Americans to notice the Moltke and her companions. Nothing should interfere, they believe, with the attention paid to the splendid "battle cruiser," so they have timed the departure of the vessels to take place before the assembling of the Republican national convention.

New York, with a century old reputation for hospitality to uphold, has outdone itself, it seems, in preparing for the visit of the German officers and men. Probably never before in the history of the city has so large and eminent a reception committee been named to welcome distinguished guests. At the head of the citizens' committee named by Mayor Gaynor is former Mayor Seth Low, well known in Germany by reason of his educational, civic and social activities.

Other eminent members of the committee who will look to the reception and entertainment of the German sailors while they are in America's greatest port are Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt, General Horace Porter, General Stewart L. Woodford, Admiral Leutze, General T. H. Bliss, Collector Loeb, General James Grant Wilson, J. P. Morgan, Jr., Jacob H. Schiff and Peter Cooper Hewitt. The list might be extended much further, for virtually every one of note in the metropolis is included. If the Germans leave American shores dissatisfied with their reception it will not be because time, money and energy have been spared in the effort to make their visiting a wonderful success.

Reading the list of Germans to be entertained in American is almost like taking pages out of the Almanach de Gotha, the official guide to European nobility. Commanding the squadron is Rear Admiral von Reuber-Paschwitz, who was formerly naval attache in Washington and has made a name for himself among American naval officers as an all round good fellow. The commander of the Moltke is Ritter von Mann Edler von Tischler. The Stettin is commanded by Captain Zenker, and his first officer is Baron von Senercens-Grency. Included among the officers of the squadron are two men of royal blood. They are Ensign Prince Henry XXXVII. of Reuss, on the Moltke, and Lieutenant Prince Christian of Hesse-Philippsthal-Barchfeld, on the Stettin.

HEINRICH MAGNUS.

THE AMERICAN RECORD OF IMPEACHMENTS

Impeachment—A calling to account; arraignment, especially of a public officer for maladministration. A calling in question as to purity of motives, rectitude of conduct, credibility, etc.; accusation, reproach; as an impeachment of motives. In England it is the privilege or right of the house of commons to impeach and the right of the house of lords to try and determine impeachments. In the United States it is the right of the house of representatives to impeach and of the senate to try and determine impeachments.—Webster.

FOR the ninth time in the history of the United States the country has been called upon to witness the spectacle of a man in high office facing impeachment on the charge of committing "high crimes and misdemeanors." Judge Robert W. Archbald of the court of commerce, accused of having improper business relations with railroad companies while sitting on the federal bench which is called upon to deal with questions affecting such companies, is the sixth member of the federal judiciary whose conduct while in office has been called into question.

The other three men impeached have been President Andrew Johnson, in 1868; William Blount, senator from Tennessee, in 1797-8, and William W. Belknap, secretary of war, in 1876. The judges have been John Pickering, United States district judge for New Hampshire, in 1803; Samuel Chase, associate justice of the United States supreme court, in 1804; James H. Peck, district judge for Missouri, in 1830; West H. Humphreys, district judge for Tennessee, in 1862, and Judge Charles Swayne of the district court for the northern district of Florida, in 1904-5.

Only two of the eight cases preceding Judge Archbald's resulted in convictions. They were those of Judge Pickering, guilty of rendering decisions contrary to law and of drunkenness and profanity on the bench, and of Judge Humphreys, convicted of treason in engaging in active rebellion against the Washington government. Judge Humphreys made a secession speech in 1860 while still a member of the federal judiciary and did not resign his office even after he had accepted a place on the bench of the Confederate states.

Senator Blount was accused of conspiring with the British to transfer New Orleans and adjacent territory from Spain to Great Britain through the medium of a British fleet and a land force to be furnished by Blount. When the senate received notice from the house that impeachment was intended the senate first put Blount under heavy bond and then expelled him. Later he was elected to the senate of his state. He was acquitted by the federal senate on the ground that, as a senator, he was not a "civil officer."

Judge Chase was called not guilty of charges of official misconduct, although it was shown he made before a Maryland grand jury intemperate criticisms of the federal administration of his day. The senate said that his conduct was "rather a violation of the principles of politeness than of the principles of law." Judge Peck punished an attorney for contempt of court after the latter had published a criticism of Judge Peck's opinion in a civil case, but the senate held the offense did not warrant conviction.

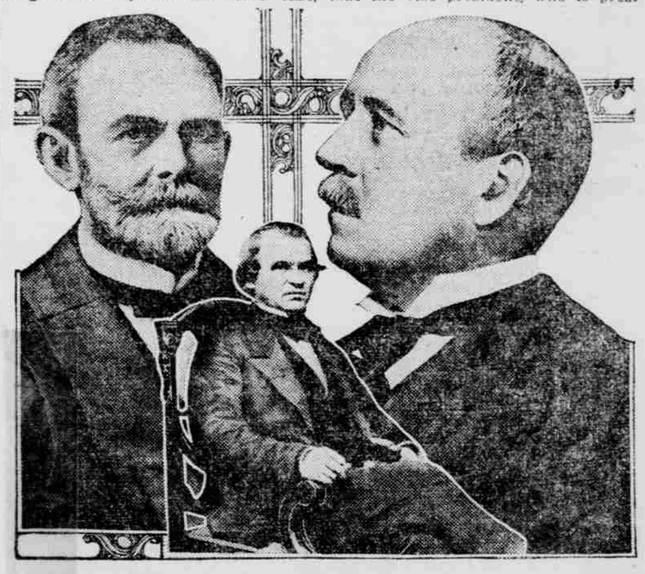
Secretary of War Belknap was accused of accepting a bribe. The senate decided that he, having resigned office, was not amenable to impeachment by the house, as he had ceased to be a civil servant of the United States. The latest case before that of Judge Archbald was Judge Charles Swayne's, in 1905. The house arraigned Judge Swayne on charges of corruption and maladministration of his office, but he was acquitted by the senate. Judge Swayne retained office and died in 1907.

The most famous of American impeachment cases, and one of the great cases of the world, was that of President Andrew Johnson, accused of misusing the powers of his office in removing Secretary of War Stanton, of violating the tenure of office act and of denouncing congress as an unlawfully constituted body.

In accordance with the terms of the federal constitution, which provide that in the case of the impeachment of a president the chief justice of the United States shall preside over the senate sitting as a court (it being held that the vice president, who is president of the senate, has a personal interest in the removal of a president) Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presided. It takes a two-thirds vote to convict in impeachment proceedings, and this the opponents of President Johnson could not obtain. The president was acquitted.

The president has no power to pardon in case of impeachment, and the senate is the final tribunal. Impeachment of state officers is provided for in the constitutions of the states.

ARTHUR J. BRINTON.



Left to right—Judge Swayne, President Johnson, Judge Archbald.